

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 QUITO 06347 121923Z
ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
/069 W

-----093311 121927Z /64

P R 121758Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9368
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 6347

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, EC
SUBJECT: WRAP-UP ON CHARGES OF EMBASSY INTERVENTION

REFS: (A) QUITO 6212; (B) QUITO 6250; (C) STATE 228822

1. TO ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES THE BROUHAHA OVER ALLEGED EMBASSY INTERVENTION IN ECUADOR'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS SEEMS TO HAVE ENDED, WITH THE POLITICIANS WHO ORIGINALLY MADE THOSE CHARGES COMING OUT OF THE FRAY A DECIDED SECOND BEST. AFTER THE FIRST SPATE OF NEWSPAPER HEADLINES REPORTING THE CHARGES AND THE VARIOUS RESPONSES TO THEM, THE ISSUE GENERALLY MOVED TO THE EDITIRIAL PAGES WHERE IT GENERATED A NUMBER OF SERIOUS AND SATIRICAL PIECES, AS WELL AS EDITORIAL CARTOONS. THE EDITORIAL POSITIONS HAVE BEEN OVERWHELMINGLY SYMPATHETIC TO THE EMBASSY, RECOGNIZING THE INEVITABILITY AND ACCEPTABILITY OF CONTACTS BETWEEN EMBOFFS AND POLITICAL FIGURES AND DENOUNCING THE CHARGES. QUITO'S EL COMERCIO, WHICH HAS BEEN THE MOST SERIOUS WATCHDOG OF THE ENTIRE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 QUITO 06347 121923Z

ELECTORAL PROCESS, HAS TAKEN A STRONG STANCE ALONG THOSE LINES, CONDEMNING THE CHARGES AS SIMPLY ANOTHER EFFORT BY "GOLPISTAS" TO BASELESSLY BESMIRCH THAT PROCESS. GUAYAQUIL PAPERS HAVE GENERALLY PLAYED THE WHOLE ISSUE IN A VERY LOW KEY, BUT WHAT EDITORIAL COMMENT HAS APPEARED HAS DEFENDED EMBASSY ACTIVITIES IN ECUADOR, EVEN IN NEWSPAPERS NOT FRIENDLY TO THE ROLDOS CANDIDACY. QUITO'S

EL TIEMPO, WHOSE "LOS PICAPIEDRA" COLUMN FIRST REPORTED THE SUPPOSED BREAKFAST MEETING BETWEEN POLCOUNS AND A DP LEADER, HAS BEEN THE MOST RELUCTANT TO DROP THE ISSUE. WHILE THE SEPTEMBER 10 "PICAPIEDRA" COLUMN RAISED THE ISSUE ONCE MORE IN A JOCLAR VEIN SYMPATHETIC TO THE EMBASSY, THE PAPER'S WEEKLY WRAP-UP OF POLITICAL EVENTS APPEARING THE SAME DAY REPLAYED AN EARLIER REPORT CASTING DOUBT ON THE EMBASSY'S DISCLAIMER AND ALLEGING BROADER POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR THE CHARGES.

2. THE ONLY CONCRETE FALLOUT FROM THIS INCIDENT TO DATE IS A PERCEIVED RELUCTANCE ON THE PART OF SOME POLITICIANS TO BE SEEN WITH EMBOFFS. WE BELIEVE THIS NOT SURPRISING REACTION WILL BE SHORT-LIVERD IN NATURE AND THAT OUR RELATIONS SHOULD RETURN TO RELATIVE NORMLITY WITHIN A WEEK TO TEN DAYS.

3. THE "ANTI-US INTERVENTION" CAMPAIGN SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN PART OF A LARGER SCHEME TO DISCREDIT THE ELECTORAL PROCESS, USING ANY INSTRUMENT AVAILABLE. HOWEVER, THE CHARGES LEVELED AGAINST THE EMBASSY WERE SO BLATANTLY ABSURD THAT THE INCIDENT HAS PROBABLY REDUCED THE CREDIBILITY OF THE ACCUSERS WHO ARE ALSO SUPPORTING INVALIDATION OF THE JULY 16 ELECTION.

4. WE APPRECIATE ARA'S SUPPORT AND CONFIDENCE DURING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 QUITO 06347 121923Z

THIS INCIDENT PERIOD.
GONZALEZ

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, ALLEGATIONS, EMBASSIES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978QUITO06347
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780371-0147
Format: TEL
From: QUITO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780976/aaaacbr.tel
Line Count: 96
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 77cf5b52-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 QUITO 6212, 78 QUITO 6250, 78 STATE 228822
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1467132
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WRAP-UP ON CHARGES OF EMBASSY INTERVENTION
TAGS: PINT, EC, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/77cf5b52-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014